General Assembly

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Sixty-third session
Agenda item 108

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/63/L.5 and Add.1)]

63/5. Permanent memorial to and remembrance of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 61/19 of 28 November 2006, entitled "Commemoration of the two-hundredth anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade", and its resolution 62/122 of 17 December 2007, entitled "Permanent memorial to and remembrance of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade",

Recalling also the designation of 25 March as the annual International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, beginning in 2008, as a complement to the existing International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

Noting the initiatives undertaken by States in reaffirming their commitment to implement paragraphs 101 and 102 of the Durban Declaration of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance aimed at countering the legacy of slavery and contributing to the restoration of the dignity of the victims of slavery and the slave trade,[1]

Stressing the importance of educating and informing future generations about the causes, consequences and lessons of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade,

Recognizing how little is known about the four-hundred-year-long transatlantic slave trade and its lasting consequences, felt throughout the world, and welcoming the increased attention that the General Assembly commemoration brought to the issue, including the raising of its profile in many States,

Recalling, in particular, paragraph 101 of the Durban Declaration which, inter alia, invited the international community and its members to honour the memory of the victims,

1. *Welcomes* the initiative of the States members of the Caribbean Community to erect, at a place of prominence at United Nations Headquarters that is

[1] See A/CONF.189/12 and Corr.1, chap. I.

easily accessible to delegates, United Nations staff and visitors, a permanent memorial in acknowledgement of the tragedy and in consideration of the legacy of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade;

2. *Also welcomes* the establishment of a committee of interested States to oversee the permanent memorial project, drawn from all geographical regions of the world, with Member States from the Caribbean Community and the African Union playing a primary role, in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, representatives of the Secretariat, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture of the New York Public Library and civil society;

3. *Notes* that the committee will oversee the voluntary fund established for the erection of the permanent memorial to the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade;

4. *Expresses sincere appreciation* to those Member States that have already made contributions to the fund, and invites Member States and other interested parties that have not done so to do likewise;

5. *Expresses appreciation* to the Secretary-General, the Secretariat and members of the committee for their invaluable support, technical advice and assistance towards implementation of the project;

6. *Reiterates its request* contained in resolution 61/19 for Member States that have not already done so to develop educational programmes, including through school curricula, designed to educate and inculcate in future generations an understanding of the lessons, history and consequences of slavery and the slave trade;

7. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the programme of outreach on the transatlantic slave trade and slavery,[2] which highlights developments relating to a diverse educational outreach strategy to increase awareness of and to educate future generations about the causes, consequences, lessons and legacy of the four-hundred-year-long slave trade and to communicate the dangers of racism and prejudice, and encourages continued action in this regard;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session on continued action to implement the programme of educational outreach, including action by Member States;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "Follow-up to the commemoration of the two-hundredth anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade".

29th plenary meeting
20 October 2008

[2] A/63/213.